

Conservation Status of *Botrychium lineare* (slender moonwort) in Montana

Prepared for the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

By
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Historic records for *Botrychium lineare* (slender moonwort) extend over a broad range in North America, from Quebec and New Brunswick in eastern Canada to central California. Recently documented populations of this plant are known from only Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana the Canadian province of Alberta and the Yukon Territory. In 1999 a formal petition was filed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to seek protection for slender moonwort under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as threatened or endangered.

Field surveys were conducted in 2003 to relocate populations of slender moonwort that were previously documented in Montana and to examine

additional areas in the attempt to locate new populations. These surveys revisited three of the four previously reported populations in Montana and resulted in the discovery of one new population. The Montana state rank for *B. lineare* remains at S1 with the likelihood that additional populations, especially in native habitat, will be located in the future.

The outlook for long-term survival of this species improves with each additional population discovered. However, most of the known populations have had few plants in the years they were surveyed, are in relatively vulnerable roadside habitats, and are subject to the dangers inherent in small, localized populations.

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